

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 26, 36, 37 and 48-50 were previously pending. As noted above, claim 1 has been amended, claims 48 and 49 have been canceled without prejudice, and claims 51 and 52 have been added. Support for these amendments may be found throughout the Specification.¹ Thus, claims 1, 3-5, 7, 26, 36, 37 and 50-52 are now pending.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application based on the following remarks.

Interview Summary

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Dinh for the courtesy of extending an Interview on April 29, 2010, to Applicants' representative James J. Bindseil. The merits of the current amendment, namely amending the subject matter of claim 49 into claim 1, were discussed.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 48 and 49* are rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Jellicoe (US Patent No. 7,107,018).

***NOTE:** The Office Action rejects “claims 1-2” but this appears to be a typographic error, as claim 2 was canceled and as the body of the rejection addresses claims 3, 4, 5, 48 and 49. Thus, Applicants have treated this rejection as including claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 48 and 49.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as Jellicoe fails to disclose or suggest the subject matter recited by independent claim 1.

As amended, independent claim 1 now includes the subject matter of previously presented claim 49, which has been canceled. As such, independent claim 1 recites an apparatus including:

- a housing,
- a keyboard assembly slidably deployable relative to the housing and including a first keyboard slidably deployable relative to a second keyboard,
- a first connector slidably connecting the housing and the first keyboard and including a first track slidably interconnected with a first carrier,

¹ See, e.g., Specification, paragraph [0041] and Fig. 5.

a second connector slidably connecting the first keyboard and the second keyboard and including a second track slidably interconnected with a second carrier,

wherein the apparatus comprises a first end and an opposing second end, and a first side and an opposing second side,

wherein the first carrier is fixed to the first keyboard top surface near the first end, and wherein the first key arrangement is positioned on the first keyboard top surface near the second end,

wherein the first track is fixed to the housing bottom surface and extends in the first direction,

wherein the second carrier is fixed to the second keyboard top surface near the first side, and wherein the second key arrangement is positioned on the second keyboard top surface near the second side, and

wherein the second track is fixed to the first keyboard bottom surface and extends in the second direction.'

Jellicoe fails to disclose or suggest the above-noted subject matter. In particular, Jellicoe discloses housings having edges with cooperating C-shaped guides 26, 28 and 30, 32 that slidably connect the front housing 12 and second keypad housing 16, and that similarly slidably connect the first keypad housing 14 and the second keypad housing 16. The disclosure in Jellicoe of C-shaped guides on the edges of the housings fails to disclose or suggest the specific first and second track and carrier arrangements on opposing bottom and top surfaces, as recited by independent claim 1. Further, the recited subject matter provides advantages over the arrangement disclosed by Jellicoe, or Jellicoe as modified by any of the cited or submitted references, as discussed in detail in the Examiner Interview. Thus, as the recited subject matter is not disclosed or suggested by any combination of the references, independent claim 1 is patentable.

Claims 3, 4 and 5 depend from independent claim 1, and thus are patentable for at least the same reasons, as well as for the combination of subject matter recited by each of these dependent claims.

Claim 48 has been canceled, and thus the rejection of claim 48 is moot.

Therefore, based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 48 and 49 under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Jellicoe.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 7, 26, 36 and 37 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obvious over Jellicoe (US Patent No. 7,107,018) in view of Lenchik (US Patent No. 6,658,272). Also, claim 50 is rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obvious over Jellicoe (US Patent No. 7,107,018) in view of Finke-Anlauff (US Patent No. 6,850,226).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as any combination of Jellicoe and Lenchik or Finke-Anlauff fails to disclose or suggest the recited subject matter. In particular, claims 7, 26, 36, 37 and 50 respectively depend from independent claim 1, which is believed to be patentable over Jellicoe as noted above. Further, both Lenchik and Finke-Anlauff fail to address the above-noted failures of Jellicoe. Thus, claims 7, 26, 36, 37 and 50 are also non-obvious and patentably distinguishable over the cited prior art references.² Further, each of these claims separately recites subject matter not disclosed or suggested by any combination of the cited references.

Therefore, based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 7, 26, 36, 37 and 50 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obvious over Jellicoe in view of Lenchik or Finke-Anlauff.

New Claims

Applicants have added new claims 51 and 52 to recite subject matter to which they are entitled. As noted above, these new claims are fully supported throughout the Specification.

Additionally, claims 51 and 52 are allowable, as there is no combination of the cited references that discloses or suggests the subject matter recited by these claims.

In particular, claims 51 and 52 respectively depend from independent claim 1, which is believed to be patentable over any combination of the cited references, as discussed above. Thus, for at least the same reasons, claims 51 and 52 are also non-obvious and patentably distinguishable over the cited prior art references.³ Further, each of these claims separately recites subject matter not disclosed or suggested by any combination of the cited references.

² MPEP 2143.03.

³ MPEP 2143.03.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner allow claims 51 and 52.

CONCLUSION

In light of the remarks contained herein, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, for which early action is requested.

Please charge any fees or overpayments that may be due with this response to Deposit Account No. 17-0026.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 10, 2010

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